

HB 578 -- SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT TRACKING SYSTEM

SPONSOR: Lichtenegger

This bill requires the Missouri Department of Public Safety to establish and the State Highway Patrol to administer a statewide sexual assault kit tracking system for the purpose of tracking the status of all sexual assault kits in the custody of various law enforcement agencies, state and local crime laboratories, and hospitals and treatment facilities. The bill specifies the purpose of the sexual assault kit tracking system. The department may phase in participation according to region, volume, or other appropriate classifications; however, all entities in the custody of sexual assault kits shall fully participate in the system no later than July 1, 2019. The department shall submit a report to the appropriate legislative committees and the Governor, regarding the current status and plan for launching the system, by January 1, 2019.

The department shall also submit a semiannual report on January 31 and July 31 of each year, the first report being due July 1, 2019. The bill also specifies what the semiannual report shall include.

Any public agency or entity, including officials and employees, and any hospital or treatment facility and its employees providing services to victims of sexual assault shall not be held civilly liable for damages arising from any release of information or the failure to release information related to the statewide sexual assault kit tracking system, as long as the release was without gross negligence.